

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-13

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2482

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CNO WASHDC

USCOCOSOUTH

COMSIXTHFLEET

CINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

USMISSION NATO

JCS

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

AMCONSUL ADANA

S E C R E T ANKARA 0479

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: MOPS, EFIN, PINT, TU

SUBJECT: JANUARY 18 DISCUSSION AT FOREIGN MINISTRY:
PORT VISITS

REF: A) ANKARA 457; B) ANKARA 366; C) ANKARA 398

1. SUMMARY. EMBASSY AGAIN TOOK UP WITH MINISTRY
CANCELLATION OF ISTANBUL PORT VISIT BY CARRIER ROOSEVELT AND
REFUSAL TO VISIT TO SILVER FOX SHIPS. BOTH SIDES REITERATED
EARLIER POSITIONS, WITH MINISTRY GIVING SOME ELABORATION OF ITS
RATIONALE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH YAVUZALP JANUARY 18 (REFTEL A),
WE AGAIN EXPRESSED UNHAPPINESS WITH CANCELLATION OF CVA

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ROOSEVELT ISTANBUL PORT VISIT AND REFUSAL OF VISIT TO

SILVER FOX SHIPS, REPEATING OUR VIEW THAT VISITS NEED NOT HAVE CAUSED MUCH STIR AND EMPHASIZING NEED OF SIXTH FLEET FOR PORTS OF CALL.

3. YAVUZALP EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT OUR UNWILLINGNESS OR INABILITY TO UNDERSTAND WHAT TO HIM APPEARED TO BE DAYLIGHT-CLEAR. INCOMING GOVERNMENT AND ITS PROGRAM WOULD BE UNDER DEBATE IN PARLIAMENT AT PRECISE MOMENT OF VISITS, A TIMING THAT HAD NOT BEEN FORESEEN WHEN WE HAD SOUGHT AND GOT HAD GIVEN APPROVAL FOR ROOSEVELT VISIT, BUT THAT HAD BECOME KNOWN BY TIME WE ASKED FOR SILVER FOX VISIT. ENTIRE MATTER HAD BEEN REVIEWED AT THAT POINT, AND IT HAD SEEMED PLAIN THAT VISITS SHOULD BE AVOIDED AT TIME PROPOSED. YAVUZALP STRESSED THAT GOT HAD NO TROUBLE WITH VISITS IN PRINCIPLE, BUT THAT TIMING WAS KEY ELEMENT.

4. WE PRESSED FOR MORE PRECISE EXPLANATION. WHAT DID YAVUZALP THINK MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED IF VISITS HAD GONE FORWARD? HE REPLIED THAT SOME SORT OF CONNECTION WOULD HAVE BEEN MADE WITH PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAM. WHATEVER CONNECTION WAS MADE, AND HOWEVER FALSE, IT WOULD INJECT SIXTH FLEET INTO TURKISH POLITICS, WHICH NOT IN INTEREST OF EITHER U.S. OR TURKEY. WE SPECULATED THAT SAME RESULT WOULD ENSUE IF IT BECAME KNOWN, AS IT MIGHT, THAT VISIT HAD BEEN POSTPONED OR CANCELLED. HE AGREED, ALTHOUGH HE THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE LESS UNFORTUNATE THAN FOR VISIT TO PROCEED. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER, HE CONCLUDED, IF VISIT AT THAT PARTICULAR TIME HAD NOT BEEN PROPOSED TO BEGIN WITH.

5. CONTINUING WITH HIS DISCUSSION OF IMPORTANCE OF TIMING IN SUCH MATTERS, YAVUZALP HARKED BACK TO GOT'S WISH THAT 10 PER CENT DEPOSIT REQUIREMENT AGREEMENT NOT BE RAISED WITH GOT BEFORE LAST OCTOBER'S ELECTIONS. HE SAID THAT DURING TURKISH NATIONAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN FOUR YEARS EARLIER, RUMORS HAD BEEN WIDELY AND SEDULOUSLY SPREAD IN TURKEY TO EFFECT THAT U.S. WAS SUPPORTING AND FUNDING JUSTICE PARTY. IT WAS SMALL CRYPTO-COMMUNIST GROUP THAT HAD BEEN BEHIND RUMORS, AND GOT PAID NO ATTENTION TO THAT GROUP. MORE IMPORTANT, HOWEVER, WAS LARGER "FLOATING" OPINION, NOT BASICALLY ANTI-AMERICAN BUT ABLE TO BE INFLUENCED. THIS LARGER OPINION GROUP HAD PROBABLY RESERVED JUDGMENT ON CHARGE OF U.S. BACKING FOR JP.

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IF, FOUR YEARS LATER DURING RECENT ELECTION CAMPAIGN, IT HAD BECOME KNOWN THAT U.S. WAS SEEKING TO ACQUIRE LARGE AMOUNT OF TURKISH LIRA FOR LOCAL USE, THIS COULD HAVE BEEN USED TO GIVE CREDENCE TO RUMORS THAT HAD BEEN SPREAD ON PREVIOUS OCCASION. ALL IN ALL, YAVUZALP SAID, GOT WAS IN BEST POSITION TO JUDGE SUCH MATTERS.

6. COINCIDENTALLY, A LOWER WORKING-LEVEL OFFICER AT MFA

HAD EARLIER SAME DAY GIVEN ANOTHER EMBOFF A SOMEWHAT DIFFER-
ENT EXPLANATION OF SHIP VISIT PROBLEM. HE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH
GOT HAD NO EVIDENCE OF THIS, IT FEARED THAT EXTREME RIGHT-
WING GROUPS MIGHT HAVE USED OCCASION OF SHIP VISIT TO STAGE
PROVOCATION BY, FOR EXAMPLE, KIDNAPPING SHIP'S PERSONNEL
WHILE ASHORE AND PINNING BLAME ON LEFT. PURPOSE WOULD
BE TO TORPEDO LIBERAL AMNESTY LEGISLATION. THIS EXPLANATION
ECHOED POINT MADE "OFF THE RECORD" TO AMBASSADOR BY FONMIN
BAYULKEN PREVIOUS DAY (REF B).
MACOMBER

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